



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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LIPARIS LOESELII **LOESEL'S TWAYBLADE**

Loesel's Twayblade is a glabrous perennial with stems that are up to 15 cm high arising from a pair of basal leaves and a bulb-like base. The two nearly erect, narrowly elliptic basal leaves are 5-15 cm long and have a broad petiole and a thickened midrib. Several flowers are borne on short stalks in a loose inflorescence. Each white to greenish flower has 3 narrowly lance-shaped sepals that are 5-7 mm long, 2 nearly linear petals, and a strap-shaped lip petal that is 4-5 mm long and narrowed at the base. The petals and sepals are united together at the top of the curved, club-shaped ovary. The fruit is a narrowly elliptic capsule. Flowering from June-mid-July.

LIPARIS LOESELII might be confused with species of *HABENARIA*, but flowers of the latter have a tubular spur and stalk attaching them to the stem. In addition, those *HABENARIA* species that occur in Montana fens have leafy stems. Species of *LISTERA* usually do not occur in fens, and their two leaves are attached to the stem rather than being basal.